

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 /122 W

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FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3073

INFO ALL EC CAPS 3162

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC UR EFIS PLOS

SUBJECT: EC/SOVIET FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS: OPENING ROUNDS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1484

1. FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE USSR
BEGAN FEBRUARY 16 IN BRUSSELS, WITH A MOOD OF ELATION
ON THE COMMUNITY SIDE THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE FINALLY
BEEN FORCED TO RECOGNIZE THE EC. HOWEVER, THE HEAD OF
THE SOVIET DELEGATION, MINISTER OF FISHERIES
ALEXANDER ISHKOV, WENT TO SOME LENGTHS PUBLICLY TO
COUNTER THIS IMPRESSION, TELLING THE PRESS THAT THE
CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IN NO WAY ALTER THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD
IFLEC. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SOURCE,
ISHKOV HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED, BOTH DURING AND OUTSIDE
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THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, ANY STATEMENT WHICH WOULD
IMPLY SOVIET RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY.

NEVERTHELESS, BOTH ISHKOV AND THE HEAD OF THE EC
DELEGATION (UK MINISTER OF STATE DAVID OWEN) STRESSED
TO REPORTERS THEIR COMMON DESIRE TO REACH A
SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON RUSSIAN FISHING RIGHTS IN

THE EC'S 200-MILE ZONE.

2. A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE FEBRUARY 17 DISCUSSIONS HAD BEGUN WITH A ONE-HOUR MORNING PLENARY SESSION AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY AN EXPERTS-LEVEL MEETING IN THE AFTERNOON. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN "WIDE AGREEMENT" DURING THE MORNING PLENARY ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR AN AGREEMENT, SUCH AS QUOTAS, STOCKS, AND CONSERVATION MEASURES. HE ADDED THAT ISHKOV HAD SO FAR IGNORED THE EC POSITION ON LICENSING SOVIET BOATS IN COMMUNITY WATERS BUT THAT THIS COULD LIKELY BE THE SUBJECT OF A SOVIET PROPOSAL DURING THE AFTERNOON EXPERTS MEETING. THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE OVERALL CEILING ON SOVIET SHIPS PERMITTED IN EC WATERS WAS NEGOTIABLE, THE TOTAL VOLUME OF ALLOWABLE CATCHES COULD NOT BE MODIFIED. THE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE PLENARY SESSION WOULD RESUME THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 18.

3. A COMMISSION OFFICIAL WHO DEALS WITH FISHERY MATTERS (HARDY) HAS TOLD US THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL IN THE "PROBING" STAGE ("WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED SPARRING YET"), WITH BOTH SIDES LOOKING FOR WEAK POINTS AND TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN POSITIONS. HE ANTICIPATES A LENGTHY ROUND OF TALKS BEFORE AN AGREEMENT CAN BE CONCLUDED. MORRIS

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